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# Assistant President

## EXCERPT:

**Access:** Mondale is influential largely because he and Carter get along so well. **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Mandate:** He also has a reputation for discretion—which helped win him a “watching brief” from Carter to supervise a task force studying the policy, missions and lines of authority of U.S. intelligence agencies. The central question, Mondale says, is: “How do you [protect] essential secrecy in a society that is open and democratic?” His mandate is to spell out the powers

of the FBI, CIA and other agencies and to devise machinery for responsible oversight by the Congress and the White House. The task force that Mondale will head includes CIA director Stansfield Turner, Attorney General Griffin Bell and NSC chief Brzezinski.

Mondale maintains a formidable intelligence network of his own—a resource that protects him from some of the indignities that befell other Vice Presidents. In Joe Califano and Bob Bergland he has well-placed friends in the Cabinet.